IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1– 52 (Cancelled)

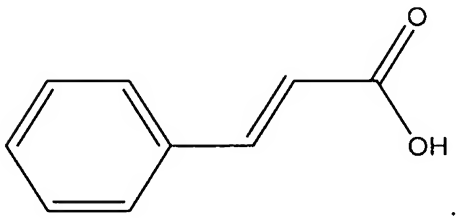
53 (New): An aqueous solution comprising:

0.5 to 25 wt.% of cinnamic acid,

35 to 300 wt.% of a tripolyphosphate based on the weight of the cinnamic acid, and

an aqueous medium;

wherein cinnamic acid has the following chemical formula:




54 (New): The solution of claim 53, wherein said tripolyphosphate is sodium tripolyphosphate.

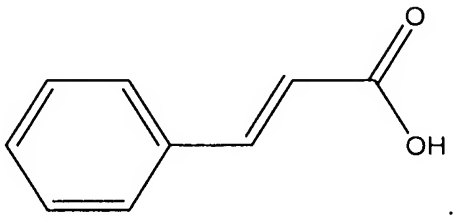
55 (New): The solution of claim 53, wherein said tripolyphosphate is potassium tripolyphosphate.

56 (New): The solution of claim 53, wherein said aqueous medium is water.

57 (New): A method of dwarfing a young plant reared in soil, comprising:

applying a 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid to the soil at a ratio of 0.0001 to 0.2 parts by weight of cinnamic acid to 100 parts by weight of the soil;

wherein cinnamic acid has the following chemical formula:




58 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said aqueous solution of cinnamic acid further comprises sodium tripolyphosphate.

59 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said aqueous solution of cinnamic acid further comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

60 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said aqueous medium is water.

61 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said young plant is selected from the group consisting of Chinese cabbage, cabbage, carrot, green onion, onion, ging-geng-cai, Japanese radish, lettuce, field peas, cauliflower, broccoli, burdock, radish, turnip, tomato, cucumber, eggplant, squash, watermelon, prince melon, *Cucumis melo* var. *makuwa*, and melon.

62 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid is applied to the soil after seeds of said young plant are sowed in the soil.

63 (New): The method of claim 57, wherein said 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid is applied to the soil after said young plant is transplanted to the soil.

64 (New): The method of claim 57, further comprising diluting the solution of claim 53 with water to a cinnamic acid concentration of from 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% before the application of the 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid.

65 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said tripolyphosphate is sodium tripolyphosphate.

66 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said tripolyphosphate is potassium tripolyphosphate.

67 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said aqueous medium is water.

68 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said young plant is selected from the group consisting of carrot, green onion, onion, ging-geng-cai, Japanese radish, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, burdock, radish, turnip, tomato, cucumber, eggplant, squash, watermelon, *Cucumis melo* var. *makuwa*, prince melon, and melon.

69 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid is applied to the soil after seeds of said young plant are sowed in the soil.

70 (New): The method of claim 64, wherein said 0.01 to 0.5 wt.% aqueous solution of cinnamic acid is applied to the soil after said young plant is transplanted to the soil.